

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS  
FOR MYCOBACTERIAL EXAMINATION  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

www.Michigan.gov/mdchlab

NOTE: Specimens will not be tested if not properly labeled, test requisition is not completed or the specimen label does not match the test requisition.

**SPUTUM**

1. An early morning sample is desired. The specimen should be coughed up from deep within the chest - it should **not** be saliva from the mouth.
2. After coughing, patient should hold the sterile tube up to the mouth and expel the sputum into the tube. Fill the tube about one-half full, if possible. **Do not get sputum on the outside of the tube.**

**URINE**

1. An early morning, cleanly voided, mid-stream sample is desired (Instructions for collection should be given by physician or county health department).
2. Do not fill the tube more than one-half full of specimen.

**GASTRIC SPECIMENS**

1. Neutralize to pH 7.
2. **Important** - This type of specimen must be delivered to the laboratory within 72 hours.

Note: Gastric specimens will be discarded without being tested if they are received greater than 72 hours after collection of if the pH is less than 6 or greater than 8.

**OTHER TYPES OF SPECIMENS** - Consult your physician, county health department or the Michigan Department of Community Health, Division of Infectious Diseases at 517-335-8067.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIMEN SUBMISSION**

- A. Screw cap on the tube as tightly and evenly as possible to prevent from leaking. Using parafilm or vinyl tape (not scotch or masking tape), tape the cap on the tube to secure the cap and prevent from leaking.
- B. **Label** tube with the same name/unique identifier used on the test requisition.
- C. Record the name/unique identifier on the tube/requisition for your records. You will use it to link the specimen to the patient.
- D. Place properly labeled tube, **wrapped in absorbent material provided and enclosed in the plastic bag provided**, into aluminum screw-capped can and tighten the cap securely.
- E. Wrap **completed** test requisition around **outside** of aluminum screw-capped can.
- F. Place aluminum can with **completed** test requisition into screw-capped cardboard mailing container and **secure cap with tape**.
- G. **Complete** and apply the return address, Biological Substance label to cardboard container and ship immediately by the most convenient means available (i.e., a courier, bus, U.S. First Class, Priority or Express mail etc.) to the Lansing laboratory.

**NOTE: The shipper is responsible for being sure that their package is in compliance with the current shipping regulations.**

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